

IRS News Release

Media Relations Office

Washington, D.C.

Media Contact: 202.622.4000

www.irs.gov/newsroom

Public Contact: 800.829.1040

Taxpayers Filing Earlier, and Banking Larger Refunds in 2009

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WASHINGTON – Taxpayers are filing earlier and receiving larger refunds so far this year, according to early filing season statistics released today by the Internal Revenue Service.

As of Feb. 27, 2009, the IRS had received 56 million individual tax returns, a slight increase over the previous year. And, the average individual refund was \$2,869, a 9 percent increase or \$232 more than the same time last year.

The IRS notes that possible reasons for the larger refunds may include taxpayers benefiting from the recovery rebate credit and other tax breaks such as the first-time homebuyer credit and the additional standard deduction for real estate taxes. The average refund amount generally will decrease slightly as the filing season progresses.

More taxpayers choose to receive their refunds through direct deposit each year. As of Feb. 27, more than 84 percent of all refunds were issued through direct deposit, up from 81 percent for the same period last year.

While the IRS has issued almost 3 percent more refunds this year compared to the same time last year, the number of taxpayers who choose to receive their refunds quickly and safely through direct deposit is up almost 7 percent compared to the same time last year. On Feb. 27, the average direct deposit refund totaled \$3,063.

The IRS cautioned that year-to-year analysis of total returns filed will be an anomaly this year because last year's results include those returns filed for the economic stimulus payment. As the year progresses, the IRS expects to receive and process more individual income tax returns during 2009 than in 2007 but fewer than in 2008.

2009 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the weeks ending Feb. 29, 2008 and Feb. 27, 2009

Individual Income Tax Returns	2008	2009	% Change
Total Receipts	55,704,000	56,049,000	0.6%
Total Processed	51,240,000	51,939,000	1.4%
E-filing Receipts:			
TOTAL	43,777,000	46,246,000	5.6%
Tax Professionals	29,750,000	29,606,000	-0.5%
Self-prepared	14,027,000	16,640,000	18.6%
Web Usage:			
Visits to IRS.gov	80,312,322	105,204,812	30.99%
Total Refunds:			
Number	46,539,000	47,697,000	2.5%
Amount	\$122.716 Billion	\$136.847 Billion	11.5%
Average refund	\$2,637	\$2,869	8.8%
Direct Deposit Refunds:			
Number	37,748,000	40,257,000	6.6%
Amount	\$107.951 Billion	\$123.297 Billion	14.2%
Average refund	\$2,860	\$3,063	7.1%